

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 OMB-01 /067 W  
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R 131609Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8250

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 02286

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UK, PK

SUBJECT: UK-PAKISTAN RELATIONS: OXFORD REFUSES HONORARY  
DEGREE FOR BHUTTO

REF: LONDON 1066

1. OXFORD UNIVERSITY CONGREGATION VOTED 155 TO 153, ON  
FEBRUARY 11, AGAINST CONFERRING AN HONORARY DEGREE ON  
PRESIDENT BHUTTO. EVENT MADE FAIRLY SIZABLE SPLASH ON  
LOCAL NEWS SCENE IN BRITAIN.

2. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT (BASED PARTLY ON INFORMATION FROM  
FCO) VOTE AGAINST BHUTTO REPRESENTED UNITED EFFORT BY  
DISPARATE ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT ELEMENTS AT OXFORD, SOME OF  
WHOM WERE SIMPLY PROTESTING CLOSED SYSTEM OF SELECTING  
NOMINEES FOR HONORARY DEGREES. IN FCO OPINION PAKISTAN  
EMBASSY LOBBYING MIGHT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS DEVELOP-  
MENT, SINCE CONFERRING DEGREE ON BHUTTO WAS DEFENDED BY  
RIGHT-WING ESTABLISHMENT FIGURES SUCH AS PROFESSOR  
TREVOR-ROPER AND MASTERS OF A FEW OXFORD COLLEGES.

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3. INTERESTINGLY, FCO'S CHALMERS TELLS US HE HAS PRETTY GOOD INFORMATION THAT MOST PAKISTANI STUDENTS AT OXFORD ACTIVELY LOBBIED AGAINST CONFERRING DEGREE ON BHUTTO-- WITH EXCEPTION OF BHUTTO'S DAUGHTER HERSELF... BANGLADESH HIGH COMMISSION KEPT HANDS OFF THE AFFAIR, AND SO DID KAMAL HOSSEIN, WHO IS VISITING FELLOW AT ALL SOULS COLLEGE THIS YEAR.

4. ONLY OTHER INDIVIDUAL IN OXFORD HISTORY TO WHOM OBJECTIONS WERE RAISED IN CONNECTION WITH GRANTING OF OXFORD DEGREE WAS PRESIDENT HARRY TRUMAN (OBJECTION BEING IN CONNECTION WITH USE OF ATOMIC BOMB). HOWEVER, DEGREE WAS EVENTUALLY GRANTED TO HIM BY FAVORABLE VOTE IN THE CONGREGATION.

5. THOSE ARGUING AGAINST BHUTTO CITED NOT ONLY HIS INVOLVEMENT IN ATTACK ON DACCA UNIVERSITY DURING BANGLADESH SECESSION BUT ALSO HIS RECENT MOVES AGAINST POLITICAL OPPOSITION IN PAKISTAN, MENTIONING MYSTERIOUS DEATHS OF OPPOSITION FIGURES OVER PAST FEW YEARS. FCO CONTINUES TO DEPLORE THE WHOLE AFFAIR AND IS SURE BHUTTO WILL BE ANGRY AT HAVING BEEN PLACED IN SUCH A POSITION BY OXFORD.

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## Message Attributes

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